

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 AT 6:30 P.M.

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Ashley Brady	Councilman Michael Baker
Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt	Councilman Donny Gerald
Councilman Ronald Atkinson	Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator	James Brogdon, City Attorney
Patricia Brown, City Treasurer	Bobby Jones, Police Captain
Lakesha Shannon, City Clerk	

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Brady.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed all citizens and guest.

4. APPROVE MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING MARCH 14, 2023

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to approve the minutes of the regular city council meeting held on March 14, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

5. MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Mayor Brady recognized Hezekiah Brown as the March Employee of the Month. He noted that Hezekiah has been with the Public Works Department for many

years and operates the heavy equipment for the department. He thanked Hezekiah for all that he does for the City of Marion.

6. PRESENTATION – PEE DEE COALITION

Ms. Linda Adams with Pee Dee Coalition announced that April is National Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Awareness Month. Ms. Adams provided an overview of their services, and noted some important statics both locally and nationwide. She shared a list of upcoming events they will be hosting, and stated that they will celebrate the grand opening of their new Marion office on May 11, 2023. Mayor Brady and Council thanked Ms. Adams and Pee Dee Coalition for all they do to provide their much-needed services.

7. ADOPT 2023 FAIR HOUSNG RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to adopt the 2023 Fair Housing Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

8. 2nd READING ON ORDINANCE 23-01 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY OF MARION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RELATING TO SOUTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE SERVICES; TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE LOCAL REVENUE SERVICE PROGRAMS; TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ONE OR MORE PARTICIPANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING

Mayor Ashley Brady explained that the City of Marion participates in insurance revenue collections services through the Municipal Association of SC. The program recently changed their name to Local Revenue Services, and would like for all participating cities to adopt this ordinance in support of the change.

A motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker to approve 2nd reading of Ordinance #23-01. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSS NOISE ORDINANCES

Police Chief Tony Flowers highlighted various sections of the city's current noise ordinance, and recommended that council consider updating the language of the ordinance to allow better clarification. He provided several examples of how the current language is vague and can result in enforcement issues. Councilman Michael Baker noted that the city has purchased decimal meters and suggested that they be used to help address noise issues. Following a lengthy discussion by council regarding noise concerns they have each encountered, Mayor Brady suggested that council work with City Attorney James Brogdon to revise the city's noise ordinance. Council will further discuss this matter at a later date.

10. QUOTES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIOS

Mayor Brady stated that House Representative Lucas Atkinson was instrumental in helping the city obtain a grant in the amount of \$95,000 to purchase new handheld radios for the City of Marion Fire Department. The purchased radios will be split with the City of Mullins Fire Department. ***A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the purchase of handheld radios for the City of Marion Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and carried unanimously.***

11. DISCUSSION ON GREEN STREET SPORTS COMPLEX FINANCES

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that an additional estimated \$500,000 is needed to complete the Green Street Sports Complex project. Last month council discussed some financing options to include a long-term bond, a USDA loan, a 10-15-year

bank loan, or borrow from themselves through city funding and repay it. He stated that the city currently has \$250,000 in funding available to apply to the project immediately.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt to approve the transfer of \$250,000 from the hospitality tax fund, and to borrow \$250,000 from the city's funds to be paid back at \$25,000 per year for 10 years to complete the Green Street Sports Complex project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker, and carried unanimously.

12. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Alan Ammons provided an update on the continued discussion regarding the Manning Street truck parking area. He stated that County Council has also received complaints regarding the trucks, and has agreed to prohibit parking in that area. He stated that signs will be posted regarding the parking lot closure, and violators will be towed. Mr. Ammons stated that the City of Marion, City of Mullins, and Marion County will work together on a resolution to the truck parking issue.

Mr. Ammons stated that he is currently researching information regarding a vacant property ordinance, and will provide more information to council for review. He provided council with some sample ordinances from surrounding cities.

Mr. Ammons stated that letters are currently being sent out to property owners regarding overgrown grass. He noted that pictures of the overgrown property are included in the notification letters. A minimum fee of \$250 per occurrence is added to the county property tax bill if the issue is not addressed and the property has to be cut by the city. He also noted that the city has a Hardship

Committee to assist qualified property owners who need assistance with their property upkeep.

13. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

14. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady:

Mayor Brady stated that construction of the Green Street Sports Complex is currently in progress. A new drinking water fountain has been installed at the Withlacoochee Park tennis court. The fountain also includes a drinking spout for pets. Mayor Brady noted that today is Election Day for City Council, and he wished the candidates well.

Councilman Michael Baker:

Councilman Baker had no comments.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson:

Councilman Ronald Atkinson expressed his concerns with the upkeep of city's website, and stated that no information was included regarding the current city council election.

Mayor Pro Tem Emerson Hunt:

Mayor Pro Tem Hunt thanked everyone for coming and asked that citizens work to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis:

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked Pee Dee Coalition and community mentors present for all they do for the children in the community. She also asked that citizens continue to look out for the elderly in their neighborhoods.

Councilwoman Lewis thanked council and staff for their commitment to

addressing safety concerns in the community. In closing, she asked citizens to anonymously report any issues they observe, and encouraged everyone to contribute to the betterment of the community.

Councilman Donny Gerald:

Councilman Donny Gerald had no comments.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson, and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Lakesha Y. Shannon, City Clerk